

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated January 17, 2006. Along with the amendment, a petition for a three-month extension of the term for response to said Official Action, to and including July 17, 2006 and a Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith.

Claim 2 has been rejected. Claim 2 has been amended. The Examiner has indicated that claim 3 is allowable if rewritten in independent format. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent format. New claims 4-16 have been added. Claim 1 has been canceled. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments or new claims. Support for the amendments and claims may be found, by way of example only, in FIGS. 1A-1B, 2A-2B and 4A-4B as well as pages 6-12 of the specification. Thus, claims 2-16 are presented for consideration in view of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been amended. Thus, it is believed that the rejection pertaining to indefiniteness has been addressed and thus it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the applicants admitted prior art (Figures 6A, 6B; Description of Related Art) in view of Gefvert (U.S. Patent 5,533,129) in view of Iwamura (U.S. Patent 6,473,135) in further view of Watanabe (U.S. Patent 6,167,140) in further view of Hirota (U.S. Patent 4,070,546).

Claim 2 has been amended to recite an acoustic apparatus comprising a portable housing "in which the television receiver is arranged in a housing separate from the portable housing." An example thereof is illustrated in FIGS. 1A and 1B of the present application. As shown therein, an acoustic apparatus 20 is provided in which a controller 13, recording and reproducing section 10, surround decoder 14, first switches 21, second switches 22 and speakers (FLS, CS and FRS), and power amplifier 15, all of which are arranged in a portable housing. What is missing from the portable housing 20 is the television receiver 17; the CRT tube and corresponding electrical circuitry of the television receiver 17 which may be contained in another housing **separate** from the portable housing 20. Thus, and it is to be appreciated, placing the television receiver 17 in a different housing than housing 20 helps make the housing 20 portable.

The applied combination of references does not appear to disclose the above identified features of claim 2 for the following reasons.

As best understood, the Examiner appears to rely on alleged applicants admitted prior art (in particular, apparatus 3 of FIGS. 6A and 6B). Neither applicants admitted prior art nor Imamura disclose a television receiver in a housing separate from a portable housing containing a multichannel acoustic signal reproducing apparatus as in the present application.

Applicants admitted prior art, as asserted by the Examiner, shown by FIGS. 6A and 6B and corresponding description, discloses an apparatus 3 containing a controller 13, recording and reproducing section 10, surround decoder 14, power amplifier 15 and a **television receiver 17** all arranged in

one housing. There is simply no teaching or suggestion for separating the television receiver from the housing and placing the receiver in a separate housing. In other words, there is no motivation to provide two housings: a portable housing and another housing to support the television receiver.

Iwamura is cited for showing a television receiver having additional loudspeakers. The television receiver including the CRT is described as being part of a television set.

Thus, the applied combination does not teach or suggest an apparatus "in which the television receiver is arranged in a housing separate from the portable housing" as recited in claim 2 of the present application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 2 is patentable as being non-obvious over the cited prior art for at least the above reasons.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 has been objected to for various informalities. Claim 3 has been amended to correct the informalities. Thus, it is believed that the objection to claim 3 has been addressed and thus it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. As explained above, claim 3 has been amended to

overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Furthermore, claim 3 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of base claim 2. Thus, Applicants believe that claim 3 is in allowable form.

New Claims

New claims 4-16 have been added. Claims 4-9 depend from independent claim 2 and claims 10-16 depend from independent claim 3 and should be allowable for at least for the reasons of their respective independent claims.


In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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